

MAY 2024



THE ENLIGHTENER

Epiphany UCC | St. Louis, Missouri
Benton Park Neighborhood

PK's Little Epiphanies

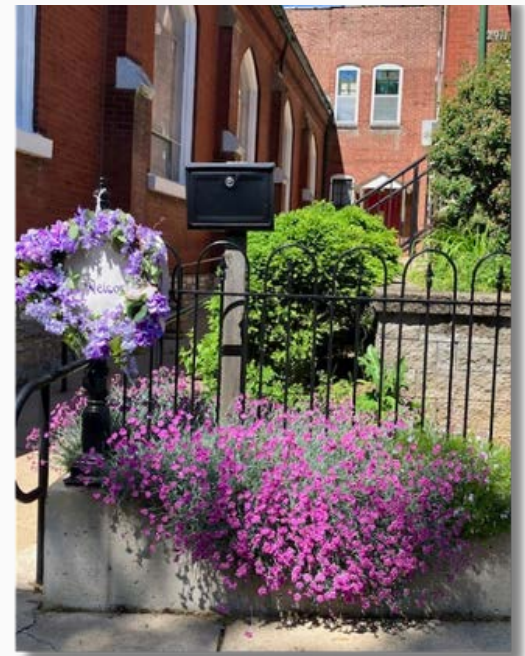


Hello Epiphany Friends,

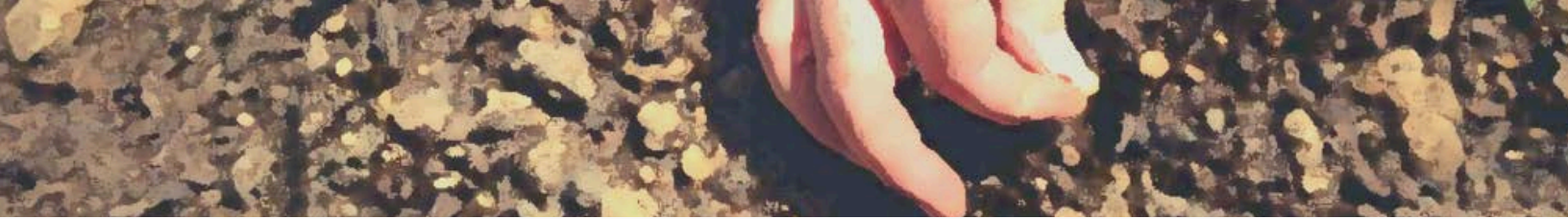
Well, the flowers are blooming at church; no sidewalk petunias YET, but no potted ones yet either. Easter season is screaming by and Pentecost is coming fast—it's May 19—and then Trinity Sunday is May 26, marking the beginning of Ordinary Time.

In an effort to lead to a Spirit filled Extraordinary time, the Worship Team has chosen to use a hymn called “Sing a New Church,” or by its first line: “Summoned by the God Who Made Us.” It is a familiar tune, but the words are new to us, written by a Benedictine Sister, Delores Dufner.

We will introduce it on Trinity Sunday and while we won't sing it EVERY week, we will share a line (in order) each week in This Week at Epiphany for us all to meditate on, reflect on, and/or use in our prayers. You will also be invited (if you choose) to write a brief reflection (100 words or less) which will be included in the next week's email and many of them will be collected for the Enlightener. The preacher each week will also choose a line from the hymn to include in the service, it may or may not be the same phrase we have been reflecting on that week.



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Here is the text of the hymn:

Sing a New Church (sung to “Nettleton,” the melody for “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”)

~Delores Dufner, OSB

Summoned by the God who made us
rich in our diversity
Gathered in the name of Jesus,
richer still in unity.

Refrain:

Let us bring the gifts that differ
and, in splendid, varied ways,
sing a new Church into being,
one in faith and love and praise.

Radiant risen from the water,
robed in holiness and light,
every person in God’s image,
every person, God’s delight.

Refrain

Trust the goodness of creation;
trust the Spirit strong within.
Dare to dream the vision promised,
sprung from seed of what has been.
Refrain

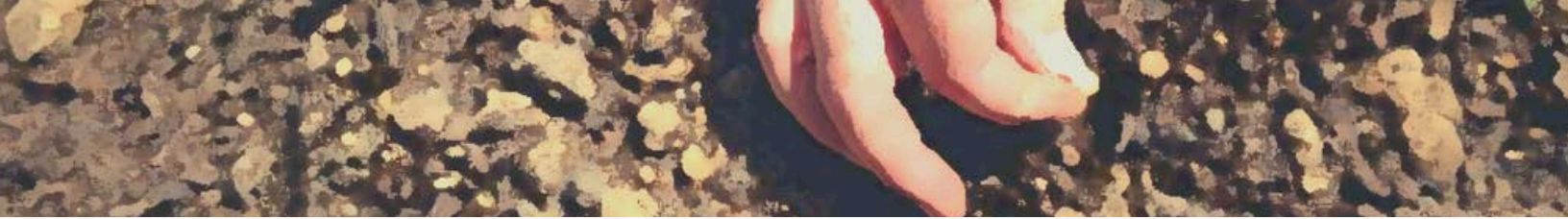
Bring the hopes of every nation;
bring the art of every race.
Weave a song of peace and justice;
let it sound through time and space.
Refrain

Draw together at one table,
all the human family;
shape a circle ever wider
and a people ever free
© Oregon Catholic Press

Find the blessings all around you and share them with the world as you are able, now, as
Easter season draws to a close and always.

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Krissy



EPIPHANY ENDORSES HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE, PAID FAMILY LEAVE CAMPAIGN & BALLOT MEASURE

By Jeanette Mott Oxford
Epiphany Justice Team

As a Just Peace Church, Epiphany United Church of Christ's Council has voted to endorse the Missourians for Healthy Families & Fair Wages campaign.

According to a [fact sheet](#) distributed by the [Missouri Budget Project](#):

"Missouri voters will soon have the chance to put in place a common sense set of guardrails to ensure that workers can reach their full potential and build prosperity for their families and communities, as well as our state's economy. An initiative on the 2024 ballot would build quality jobs by providing a much-needed raise to Missouri workers and guaranteeing earned sick leave for workers."



For several months, some Epiphany members have been gathering signatures on petitions to put a higher minimum wage and paid family leave on a 2024 ballot. Myisha Johnson, our Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) organizer came to collect signatures at our last concert and has given support to members who volunteer in the campaign.

The 2024 ballot measure has these components:

INCREASE MISSOURI'S MINIMUM WAGE TO \$15/HOUR

- Missouri's minimum wage would increase from \$12/hour in 2023 to \$13.75/hour in 2025 and \$15/hour in 2026, with annual cost of living increases in subsequent years.
- The increase would give a much-needed raise to over 562,000 Missouri workers, who would earn an extra \$1,083 annually - enabling them to further contribute to their local economies.
- Nearly 90 percent of these workers are adults over age 20 who work at least 20 hours a week.
- Nearly one in four Missouri kids live in households that would see an increased income, which has been proven to improve health and educational outcomes for children.

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ALLOW WORKERS TO EARN 5 TO 7 PAID SICK DAYS EACH YEAR

- Private sector, wage earning workers would earn one hour of sick time for every thirty hours worked.
- An estimated 938,000 Missouri workers do not currently have access to paid sick leave.
- The ballot measure's paid sick leave provisions would reach 728,000 Missouri private sector workers.

For more information about the campaign and ways you can help, contact Myisha Johnson at myisha@mcustl.com.

**PRESENTED BY EPIPHANY UCC
& ISAIAH 58 MINISTRIES**

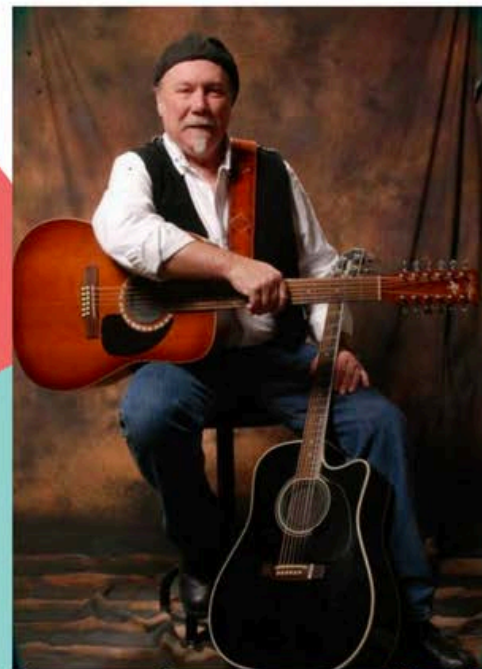
CONCERT WITH GARY SCHOENBERGER

SAT, JUN 22, 5:30P

Join us for live music, cool refreshments, and a raffle. Free to attend, donations appreciated! All proceeds support Epiphany UCC & Isaiah 58 Ministries.

We will collect food pantry donations at the concert, so be sure to bring along non-perishable items to stock Isaiah 58's shelves!

2911 McNair Ave. 63118
www.epiphanyucc.org
www.i58ministries.org



MISSOURI HOUSE PASSES RESOLUTION ENDING MAJORITY RULE IN MISSOURI CITIZEN INITIATIVES INCLUDING BALLOT CANDY DESIGNED TO TRICK VOTERS

Missouri voter protection advocates strongly condemned action by the Missouri House of Representatives today passing SJR74 - which would eliminate majority rule that has defined Missouri's citizen initiative process for more than a century. Lawmakers also added so-called "ballot candy" that would have no practical impact but is designed to trick Missouri voters and hide the measure's true impact.



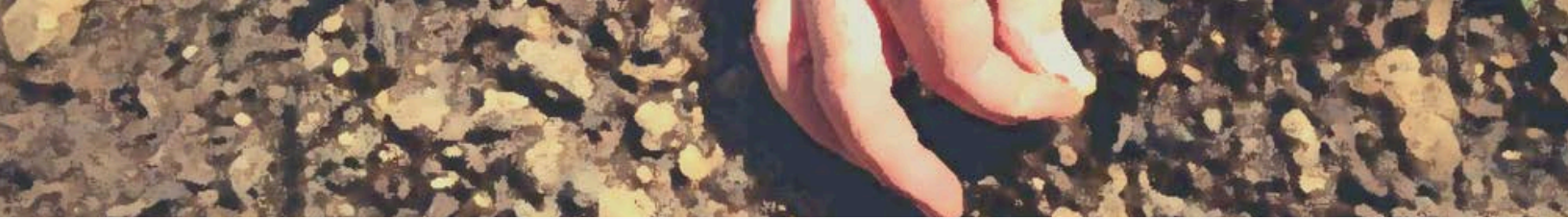
[Missouri Voter Protection Coalition](#), Missouri's nonpartisan statewide coalition of voter protection advocates, including more than 70 organizational partners, along with its team at Jones Advocacy Group, has lead the legislative opposition to the more than two dozen measures introduced this year that would end majority rule and impede Missouri's long-standing citizen initiative process.

[SJR 74](#), sponsored by Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman, who has her sights set on becoming Missouri's chief election official, would end majority rule through a confusing concurrent majority requirement, which would allow [as few as 23 percent of Missouri voters to override measures supported by a majority of Missourians](#).

The Missouri House added additional amendments including citizenship and foreign funding mandates that are already part of Missouri law, but designed to trick voters. Testimony from Missourians on this and similar measures has overwhelmingly opposed the legislature's efforts to end majority rule.



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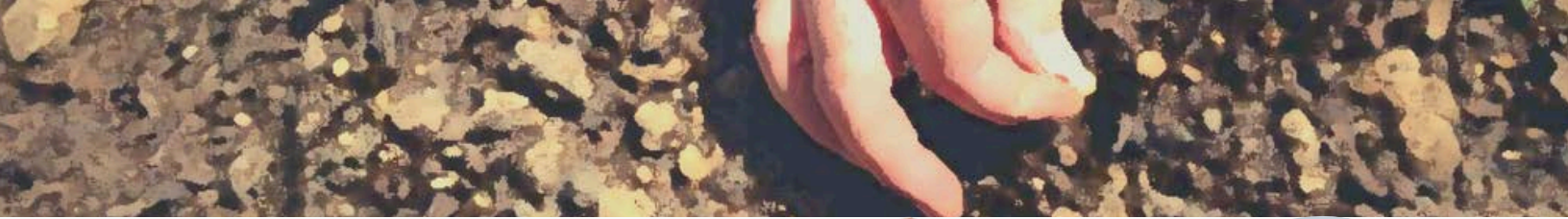
Following a contentious debate, including forceful objections from Representatives Jamie Johnson, Ashley Aune, Deb Lavender, Joe Adams, Eric Woods, Peter Meredith, Kevin Windham, Barbara Phifer, David Tyson Smith, and Crystal Quade, the House passed the resolution by a vote of 102-49. The measure now goes back to the Senate, where a filibuster is expected to challenge the inclusion of the “ballot candy” provisions. If approved there, the proposed change would go to the ballot for approval by Missouri voters.

In response to today’s action, Denise Lieberman, director and general counsel of the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition issued the following statement:

“Missouri Voter Protection Coalition is disappointed that the Missouri House passed SJR 74, which would end Missouri’s more than century-long tradition of majority rule in the citizen initiative process. We are particularly appalled that House members chose to include needless ballot candy intended to confuse voters and hide the true impact of the measure, which is to end majority rule for voters in Missouri.

“To be clear, SJR 74 ends ‘one-person, one-vote’ in Missouri, allowing some votes to weigh more than others,” Lieberman added. “The measure allows a small minority of Missourians to override the will of the majority. We are grateful to the many lawmakers who stood up for the will of the voters of Missouri, and disappointed that lawmakers refused to heed their call. We intend to keep up the pressure as the measure moves back to the Senate to protect the rights of all Missourians to make their voices heard at the ballot box.”





LECTIONARY READINGS FOR MAY 2024

You can deepen your experience of worship by reading the scriptures in advance of Sunday. Worship services are often (but not always) based on one of the lessons of the week.

May 5

Acts 10:44-48 Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6 | John 15:9-17

May 12

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1
1 John 5:9-13 | John 17:6-19

May 19

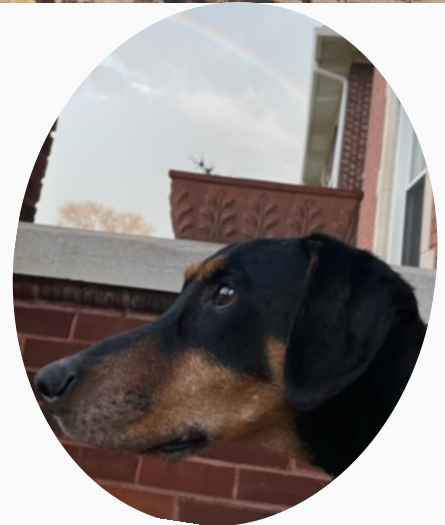
Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

May 26

Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 29
Romans 8:12-17 | John 3:1-17



THANK YOU



As many of you know, we said goodbye to our dog Arya on April 28. Although she wasn't officially a member of Epiphany, Arya was well-known to almost everyone. She was often present at the church and was a regular attendee to online worship.

We thank you so much for all the warm thoughts, prayers, texts, hugs, and kind words—it has meant a lot to us!

Thank you,

~Wes and Amanda (and Maria)





MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
-	-	-	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	-

Contact Pastor Krissy at pastorkris@epiphanyucc.org for an invitation to the Zoom worship and meetings.

May 1 - Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer Group

May 2 - Thursday

8 a.m. PK Office Hours

May 3 - Friday

May 4 - Saturday

May 5 - Sunday

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

May 6 - Monday: Yom HasShoah
Holocaust Day of Remembrance

May 7 - Tuesday

8 a.m. PK Office Hours
7 p.m. Benton Park Neighborhood Assoc.

May 8 - Wednesday

May 9 - Thursday: Ascension Day

8 a.m. PK Office Hours

May 10 - Friday

May 11 - Saturday

May 12 - Sunday

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
10:30 a.m. Worship

May 13 - Monday

May 14 - Tuesday

8 a.m. PK Office Hours

May 15 - Wednesday

5:30 p.m. Centering Prayer group

May 16 - Thursday

7:30 a.m. Faith Labor Alliance Breakfast

May 17 - Friday

May 18 - Saturday

May 19 - Sunday with Noisy Offering

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

May 20 - Monday

May 21 - Tuesday

8 a.m. PK Office Hours

May 22 - Wednesday

May 23 - Thursday

8 a.m. PK Office Hours
7 p.m. Council Meeting

May 24 - Friday

May 25 - Saturday

May 26 - Sunday

9:15 a.m. Adult Discussion
10:30 a.m. Worship

May 27 - Monday

May 28 - Tuesday

8 a.m. PK Office Hours

May 29 - Wednesday

May 30 - Thursday

8 a.m. PK Office Hours

May 31 - Friday



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

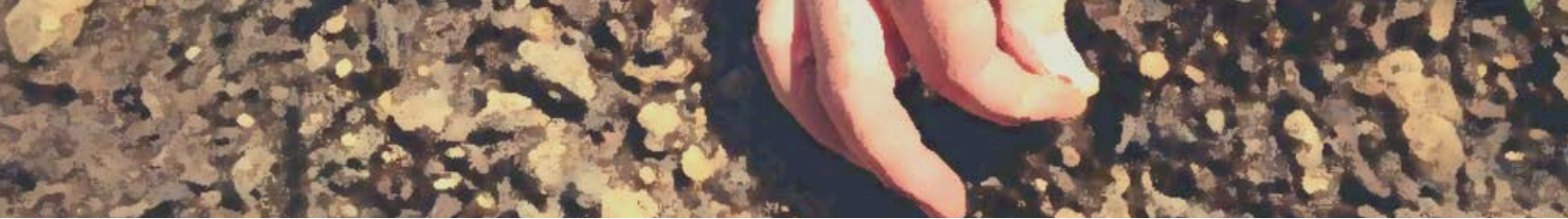
May Birthdays

Amanda Verbeck 5/30

May Anniversary

Doug & Cassandra Kaufman 5/2

Fred & Beckie Tilinski 5/26



Sundays Worship & Education

Adult Education, 9:15 a.m.

Worship, 10:30 a.m.

Click the link to Zoom with us,
or worship with us at facebook.com/epiphanyucc.



NOISY OFFERING - 3RD SUNDAYS

Ministers at Epiphany

Pastor, Rev. Kristofer Avise-Rouse

President, Lois Yatzeck

Vice President, Karen Sell

Secretary, Amanda Verbeck

Treasurer, Kat Logan Smith

Council Member: Dorothy Gannon

Financial Secretary, Dorothy Gannon

Accounts Payable, Jeanette Mott Oxford

Building Care, Kat Logan Smith

Choir, Dorothy Gannon

Christian Education Chair, Lois Yatzeck

Enlightener Editor, Wes Buchek

Usher Coordinator, Wes Buchek



Members
who cannot
be with us
but would
love to hear
from you!

John DeClue #529925

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David Hon

2005 Frenken St.
Pocahontas, AR 72455

Chris Heckendorn

Garden Villa South, Apt. 130
13457 Tesson Ferry Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63128

Front desk phone: 314-843-7788

Chris welcomes visitors, please call first.

Remember, the **newsletter** is only as good as the items that are submitted to the editors. We're always looking for new and interesting content. If you have anything to share (news, ideas, musings), send to [Wes](#).

Our Purpose: We love God by: Accepting and affirming all, fostering growth, and working for social justice.

Our Commitments:

We are "Open and Affirming"—welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities into church life and leadership.

We are a "Just Peace" Church—seeking to bring peace by working for social justice.

We are a "Whole Earth" Church—committed to caring for creation and bringing a 'green' consciousness to our living.

We seek to become a "Multicultural" Church—celebrating the diversity of racial and ethnic traditions.

WE SEEK TO BE MULTI-CULTURAL AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Sunday Schedule

9:15 a.m.

Christian Education

10:30 a.m.

Worship

Telephone:

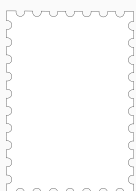
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